

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 23, 1993

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Communist torture yields Ethiopian man's conversion

By Craig Bird

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP) — Faith often leads to torture. But for Ephraim Chewaka, torture led to faith.

In the midst of a savage beating by Ethiopian communist troops, Chewaka tested "the truth of the Bible, where it says revenge belongs to God."

Three times, as new assaults pounded him, he consciously "became keep-quiet" — and stilled his anger and hatred toward his tormentors.

Each time the pain lessened. Finally he could barely feel the touch of rubber hoses, fists, and sticks. He asked himself: "Do we actually believe the right Bible?" and concluded: "If God is telling the truth about loving our enemies, then he must be telling the truth about Jesus Christ and salvation."

Aloud he exclaimed, "Oh Lord, hallelujah, oh Lord, they don't know what they are doing," and kissed the hand of one soldier who hit him. "At that exact moment," he says quietly, "I claimed Jesus."

Kissing one soldier's hand made them all angry and they began beating him simultaneously. "But — when the stick became more and more — I got joy."

That was in 1978. Today Chewaka, 33, is a key leader in the New Covenant Evangelical Baptist Convention of Ethiopia — a quiet and gentle man who has dedicated his life to telling the children of Ethiopia about Jesus.

Ironically, Chewaka should not have been arrested when troops of

the Derge (the communist government that ruled Ethiopia from 1971-90) rounded up Christian believers in his western Ethiopian hometown of Kaffa.

When a sound truck rolled through the streets blaring, "Anyone under the age of 30 who goes to church tomorrow will be shot,"

*"... When the stick became more and more — I got joy."
— Ephraim Chewaka*

it didn't take him long to decide: "Jesus has never done anything for me worth dying for."

He was 19 years old, had taught Sunday School since he was 7, sang in the choir, and was treasurer of a 2,000-member church where his father was pastor. Still, he immediately "canceled to go to church," as he put it. He turned over the congregation's money and his keys.

He stayed home that Sunday — but on Monday he was picked up along with 17 other members of the choir who had gone to church. Two days later in the basement of the prison, between screams of pain and hatred, he realized other choir members were singing and smiling as they were beaten. Hours later he joined them in their unusual — but biblical — response to persecution.

The beatings of the choir mem-

bers began at 8:30 a.m. on a Wednesday. About 350 soldiers took turns smashing the believers. They continued until 12:30 a.m. Thursday before the commanding officer declared: "Surely their God is with them. They have more power than we do."

When the great famine of the mid-1980s devastated his country, Chewaka began working with Southern Baptist missionaries in Ethiopia. In feeding centers and clinics throughout the highlands, he quietly shared his testimony of a God who is as good as his word.

During that time he began working in child evangelism and developing what he calls "House-to-House Evangelism." One of his major tenets is that children must earn the right to witness for Christ.

Perhaps remembering his own childhood when he acted the part of a Christian without really believing it himself, he teaches: "There must be a change in your life that other people notice. Because Christ is within you, you must be the best son or daughter, the truest friend, the hardest-working student. When God changes the way you live then you earn the right to tell others about him."

He doesn't want the youngsters to someday have to realize, as he did in that prison basement:

"God, I served you for nothing for all these years. Now I see you in this persecution place, and I want to serve you for real."

Bird writes for FMB.



A NEW GENERATION— Ephraim Chewaka (standing) came to faith in Jesus Christ under torture by communists and now actively evangelizes Ethiopians as a Baptist leader. Chewaka, 33, concentrates on children. Here he tells them Bible stories during a social event sponsored by his "House-to-House" evangelism ministry. (BP photo by Melissa Bird)

First, New Albany, sets 150th

First Church, New Albany, will celebrate its 150th anniversary during homecoming on Oct. 2-3. On Oct. 2, a barbecue dinner will be served from 4-6 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. pageant in which church members will reenact significant events from church history. On Oct. 3, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., with morning worship at 10:30 a.m. Former pastors and ministers ordained by the church will be recognized. The pageant will be repeated at 4 p.m. for local citizens.



"Lite" Bible planned

Mega-publisher Simon and Shuster hopes to cash in on the "lite" products craze in America by publishing a condensed version of the Bible that the company says will provide easier reading and faster-moving action. The trimmed-down Old and New Testaments will have no genealogies and are being designed as "living literature." As an example of the editorial license being used for the revision, Simon and Shuster editor Lodowick Allison says the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament has been pared to two and a half pages because "the Levite legal codes... are not only impenetrable but unimportant to today's reader." The book is scheduled for release in November of this year.



Looking back...

50 years ago

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has voted to retire another \$104,000 of "interest-eating, excuse-producing, morale-killing" bonds, leaving \$52,500 of indebtedness that once totalled \$650,000.

20 years ago

Anne Landers, nationally-syndicated advice columnist and twin sister of equally-famous columnist Abigail "Dear Abby" Van Buren, has accepted an invitation to be guest speaker at the Mississippi College Lyceum Series lecture.

10 years ago

Citing inadequate parking and a drop in customers, the Baptist Sunday School Board announced that the Baptist Book Store building at 125 N. President Street in Jackson would be sold to a local real estate developer for \$400,000.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

A brush with reality

At times it is difficult to understand the trumpet sound from Nashville. You hear victory in the forefront, but in the distance the echo sounds like Taps.

Effective Oct. 1, the deletion of 45 jobs will result in displacement of 29 employees at the Baptist Sunday School Board, eliminating 16 vacant positions. President Jimmy Draper said, "We seem to have higher cost than other similar companies." This reduction is to be applauded, and the BSSB commended for such straightforward thinking. All of this is to result in a new saving of \$2.4 million for 1993-94, Draper declared.

Next we read the Sunday School Board has adopted a \$233 million budget for next year. This means the board must take in \$32 million more than they expect to receive this year. Also, about \$4.1 million must be cut from already budgeted expenses. Being aggressive and having a great vision is wonderful, but this may be a brush with reality.

Church literature sales, which make up about 40% of all BSSB revenue, are 3.8% below budget nine months into this fiscal year. Last year there was an 8% drop in literature sales. Board officials say this may be so, but they expect sales to pick up next year. A 3% hike in April 1994 in literature for

churches will hardly brighten the picture.

Meanwhile, Smyth & Helwys, independent publisher which sells mainly to moderate/conservative churches, reports a 25% increase in sales. Executives of the BSSB concede that Smyth & Helwys has cut into BSSB sales and increasingly is becoming a worrisome factor. Overall the BSSB literature still ranks among the best in the world. Draper is striving hard in a difficult job and needs the prayers of all Southern Baptists.

Across the street at the Executive Committee, Cooperative Program receipts total \$126,101,303 for 11 months of the church year. The budget is \$140,200,395. Obviously there will be a serious shortfall. Multiple reasons are offered. The main reason appears to be the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which predicts a record income of \$9.5 million in 1993. Some of these funds have been diverted from the Cooperative Program channel.

We take no delight in Nashville's financial headache. However, they have been repeatedly informed that "taxation without representation" would eventually erode the Cooperative Program.

In the beginning of the SBC controversy, part of it was theological but soon it sifted down to

personalities. It brings no pleasure to give sacrificially to the CP and be disenfranchised on committees and boards.

We are not apt to iron out all the wrinkles in an SBC blanket which has been crimped for the past 15 years. We could begin some peace overtures. Even Israel and the PLO came to the bargaining table. Fundamental/conservatives could cease trying to take over state conventions and stacking committees. Other churches which gave \$7.3 million to CBF last year are needed in the SBC funding channel.

We have far too much invested in great mission programs, six seminaries, and a tremendous publishing house for it to be severely hampered by strong personalities on either side.

Fundamental/conservatives now "own" the SBC (Grady Cothen's term) but the SBC is not a happy house. Institutions are scrambling for independence and thousands of Southern Baptists feel disenfranchised by the SBC leadership.

Let's blow the peace trumpet and get the house in order. Dare we say, "I was wrong, forgive me," or "Even if I were right, my spirit was wrong. Please forgive me." Simplistic perhaps, but it's a good place for healing to begin.

Guest Opinion...

Give — in Christ's Spirit

By E. Harold Fisher Jr.

If you have been confused by estate planning seminars, information on wills, trusts, taxes, insurance, and investments; if you have a desire to carry out God's instructions to be a good manager of your assets; if you are frustrated by laws surrounding the making of a will or the detailed Internal Revenue Service regulations; if you have put off estate planning or preparing a simple will, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, can help.

The Foundation specializes in wills and trusts. We understand the Christian's interest in estate planning, particularly in the areas of wills and trusts, goes beyond efforts to save or reduce taxes. The Christian steward's interest is in providing for the family, as taught in 1 Timothy 5:8; being a good steward of his assets includes giving to the Lord.

The preparation of a will is vital to insure your wishes regarding the disposition of your estate are carried out at your death. The use of a

trust can also be an effective tool in making sure your estate is used as you feel the Lord directs.

If you feel God's direction in making a gift to a Baptist cause or mission, call the Foundation. We can provide the information you need to make an educated decision. You can make a gift today, receive income from the gift for life, and be assured that the income earned from your gift after your death will be used for the Baptist cause or mission of your choice.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation has over 700 accounts, over 700 Christian stewards who wanted to further the cause of Christ in Mississippi and around the world. Each account has its own story.

For example, the Christian steward who felt God's leadership in establishing a trust to fund the establishing of churches set up a charitable remainder trust, which pays her income for life. The use of a charitable remainder trust increased the level of her income, provided a current tax deduction, and reduced the size of her estate,

which will save on estate taxes.

This story could be repeated time and again. The form of each gift will vary from outright gift to contribution to the Foundation's pooled income fund, to the establishment of a trust.

The ministry of the Foundation is to faithfully carry out the instructions of Christian stewards until Christ comes again. In a sense, the Foundation is the financial institution for all Mississippi Baptists; its principal business is the management of other people's property. A major Baptist Foundation objective is to encourage, assist, and make possible for everyone, regardless of the size of their resources, to be better stewards of what God has entrusted to them.

Have you considered the cost and sacrifice involved in winning Mississippi and the world to God? With the establishment of a trust at the Foundation you can help provide the financial resources available for the Lord's work until he comes again.

Fisher is executive director, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Beginning and Ending



September is Baptist Foundation Month

THE FRAGMENTS

The importance of trustees

About one-third of all colleges and universities in the United States are associated directly with church groups. Fifty-three of these are Southern Baptist, plus six seminaries and 12 Bible schools and academies. SBC colleges enrolled over 200,000 last year. Those schools employ 7,461 faculty and administrative officers. Properties and endowments total more than \$3 billion and the combined budget of the colleges is \$1.2 billion. The average amount of the annual budget received from state conventions continues to be about 10%. It is big business, and to Baptists it is serious business.

The number and method of election of trustees differ in each state but all would agree to its importance. Ben C. Fisher, in his book, *A Manual for College Trustees*, declares the primary responsibility of the trustee is to safeguard the purpose for which the institution was founded. The trustee has the responsibility for the management of all funds and the development of all spiritual properties, plus continual improvement of the instructional program, and being thoroughly familiar with the requirements of the regional accrediting agency, says Fisher.

Also, the trustees must work with the faculty, alumni, the community where the college is located, denominational relations,

endowment, wills and trusts, along with the future planning of the school.

Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, and William Carey College have been blessed and honored with a long line of distinguished trustees. These men serve sacrificially and are appreciated by all of us.

Guidelines are also suggested for the selection of a president. Bill J. Priest, in *Selecting a College President*, says this could "well be the most important decision a board will ever make. May it be made wisely, for the institution's future will reflect the wisdom of the choice." He suggests desirable qualities for a college president: Christian commitment, understanding of constituency, academic qualifications, executive ability, an understanding of the educational process and problems as a whole, experience in communication, ability to work with people, understanding of faculty, students, and alumni, experience in fund raising, and understanding of the region in which the school is located. What a job description!

The Mississippi College trustees need your prayers and the college needs your support in this critical step of selecting a president. It is a monumental task and the "wisdom that comes from above" is needed. — GH

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Bernard Blackwell's body recovered from Lake Chotard

A week-long search for a former Mississippi College official presumed drowned in Lake Chotard ended Sept. 19 when a fisherman found his body.

The body of Bernard Blackwell, 66, of Clinton was found about 6 a.m., Warren County Sheriff Paul Barrett said.

"Somebody was going fishing and put their boat in and started down the lake," Barrett said. "My two deputies were putting their boat in when they came back and told them he was in the middle of the lake."

The body was recovered near the spot where witnesses say Blackwell fell into the water on

Sept. 13, Barrett said.

Apparently, Blackwell was trying to fix the plug in his 14-foot bass boat when he fell overboard, the sheriff said.

"He still had the plug to the boat in his hand," Barrett said.

A son, Bernie Blackwell, said his family is glad the ordeal is over. "We are very much relieved that he's been found so he can be put to rest."

He said his father had been fishing in Lake Chotard for more than 30 years. Blackwell was a careful boater when fishing with others but wasn't as safety-conscious when by himself, his son said.

Warren County Coroner L.W.

Callaway said State Medical Examiner Emily Ward performed a routine autopsy Sept. 20. "At this time, there's no indication this is anything other than a simple drowning," Callaway said.

Bernie Blackwell said his family appreciates the efforts of law enforcement officials and volunteers. "They went above and beyond the call of duty. They searched with every resource there was to make the recovery as soon as possible."

Blackwell, a Saucier native, was head football coach at Northwest Junior College in Senatobia. He began working for Mississippi College in 1959 as associate pro-

fessor of education. He was later assistant to the president and in 1976 became director of alumni affairs.

"He'd become one of the most loyal fans of theirs, not to have graduated from there," his son said.

While attending the University of Mississippi, he was a member of the first Ole Miss football team to win the Southeastern Conference Championship. A former football coach on the high school and college level, Blackwell was a leader in several coaching associations. In 1991, MC inducted Blackwell into its Sports Hall of Fame and awarded him the Order

of the Golden Arrow.

Funeral services were held Sept. 21 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where Blackwell was chairman of building and grounds.

Survivors include: wife, Catherine; sons, Bernard Jr. of Magee; Douglas of Oxford; Jim of Lewiston, Maine; Hal of Florence; and Sidney of Brandon; two brothers; four sisters; 14 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to the Bernard Blackwell Sr. Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College or the University of Mississippi.

— Reprinted from the Jackson CLARION-LEDGER.

"Pray for the President" —

Booklet helps Missouri church overcome strains

ST. LOUIS (BP) — A little booklet costing all of 35 cents seems to have helped a St. Louis church overcome some internal strains that arose after last year's presidential election.

Richard Lay, pastor of Harmony Church, St. Louis, decided to offer copies of "Pray for the President" to the congregation after he "felt convicted" about his own lack of prayer for the nation's leaders and saw evidence of friction within the church.

A tract-sized publication introduced by the Brotherhood Commission last June, "Pray for the President" is a guide to 40 days of "fervent prayer" for the president and vice president of the United States. More than 18,000 copies have already been distributed.

After the 40-day prayer period was over, Lay noticed a significant change in the atmosphere.

"Now, at least, we talk like Christians, praying for those who lead us," he said.

What happened at Harmony Baptist has gratified the booklet's creators at the Brotherhood Commission and affirmed their decision to publish it.

"God's Word commands us to pray for our government leaders and further promised us 'the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective'," said James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. "All believers need to pray for President Clinton, remembering that prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven, but getting God's will done on earth."

Copies of "Pray for the President" are available only from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Orders may be placed by calling 1-800-727-6466.

Cooperative Missions Department's director, J. Ray Grissett, retires

J. Ray Grissett, 62, has announced his retirement from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as director of the Cooperative Missions Department. Grissett joined the staff in 1975 as consultant in that department. His responsibilities included working with foster missions, church extension, Christian social ministries, new work, and chaplaincy program.

Grissett was reared in Hattiesburg. He graduated from Clarke College and Mississippi College, and received the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has been pastor of First Church, Philadelphia, 1971-75; First Church, Wiggins, 1968-71; Cove Church, Panama City, 1961-68; Beaumont Church, 1958-61; and Richburg Church, 1952-58. He served as vice president of the trustees for Clarke College, and was convention board member from Perry County, 1958-61. He established an ongoing ministry at the Neshoba County Fair while at

First, Philadelphia.

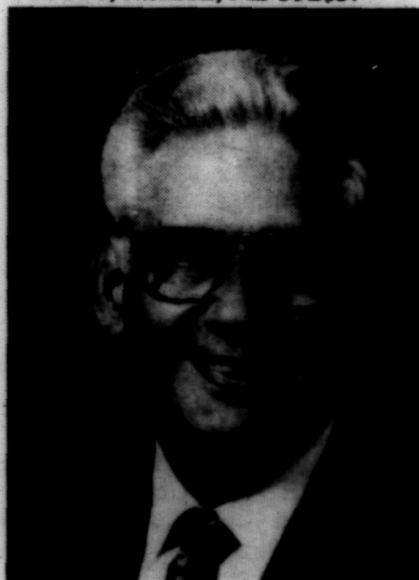
In the past two years, Grissett has worked with six other states in implementing the Mississippi River Ministry. He helped in the PROBE (specialized survey) ministry in many of the associations in Mississippi. He was a certified PACT consultant of the Home Mission Board with specialized training in mission development programs.

Grissett's son, Jay, was killed in March 1986 in an automobile wreck. In July 1988 his wife Thelma died. During those days of anxiety, he was a source of strength for those who knew him. He is gifted in the pastoral duties, and in 1979 received the "Personalities of America" award.

He has two daughters, Michal Thresa of Birmingham, and Jayne of Hattiesburg. In 1990 Grissett married the former Mary Elizabeth Crow of Jackson.

In the spring of 1993 Grissett's health began to fail, and he chose medical disability and retirement.

Unable to continue his ministry, he is able to work in his yard and travel. Grissett will be honored by the Baptist Building Sept. 28. Letters of congratulations and best wishes may be sent to the Cooperative Missions Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Grissett

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Thursday, September 23, 1993

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SBC's Young and Chapman meet with Clinton, Gore

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore held a lengthy meeting Sept. 16 with four Southern Baptist ministers, including the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the president of the SBC Executive Committee, where disagreements on moral issues were expressed but a desire for further discussion was voiced by both parties.

Clinton and Gore, both Southern Baptists, met for about an hour

and 40 minutes at the White House with H. Edwin Young, SBC president and pastor of Second Church, Houston; Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Wendell Estep, pastor of First Church, Columbia, S.C.; and Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., where Clinton is a member.

Then on the morning of Sept. 17, Young went jogging through the streets of Washington with Clinton.

It was Clinton's first meeting with Southern Baptist leadership since messengers to June's annual meeting overwhelmingly passed a resolution separating themselves from the president's support of abortion and homosexual rights.

"We talked about areas where we as Southern Baptists strongly disagree with the president and the vice president," Young said. "We are pro-life. We are deeply concerned about the gay agenda, and the perception is that the president and his administration have totally endorsed pro-choice, have endorsed the homosexual lifestyle as a minority lifestyle.... we dealt with this. Scripture was used."

On abortion, Clinton "gave an extended monologue of his position, and we listened and commented," Young said.

Despite the subject matter of some of the meeting, both Clinton and Gore seemed grateful. "We were able to have a congenial conversation, although it included disagreement," said Chapman, who led in expressing Southern Baptists' concerns over the president's policies on abortion and homosexuality.

Young, Chapman, and Horne all said the meeting succeeded in

fulfilling its purpose.

"What I was hoping would happen in the meeting was there would be an open, frank, cordial dialogue, and we could leave the meeting thinking there would be the openness to meet again," Horne said.

"While there are key issues with which most Southern Baptists would disagree with the president, he did express an interest in a continuing dialogue on the value systems of the nation," Chapman said. Clinton "was certainly a willing listener," he added.

Gore mentioned the "silence basically of the church in environmental issues," Young recalled.

He "expressed some frustration and inability to understand why people who believe God made the heavens and earth would not have greater concern about the environment," Chapman said.

The vice president said the ministers perceive the government is "not exerting moral leadership in the fashion" they would like, but "there are two Southern Baptists up here who feel the church needs to answer some questions," Young said.

Early in the meeting, Young gave both Clinton and Gore copies of the SBC Brotherhood Commission's new "Pray for the President" intercessory prayer plan. It leads people to pray for an issue, for Clinton and for Gore with specific requests each of 40 days.

"I came away with a strong impression to spend more time praying for both the president and the vice president," Chapman said.

Young also presented new Bibles to the president for his wife, Hillary, and him, and presented one personally to their daughter, Chelsea.

SBC HOTEL LIST

DUE DATES:
FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON
OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1993
MAIL NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 1994
PHONE ORDERS FOR
RESERVATIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED AS OF JANUARY 1, 1994
1-800-258-7666

OFFICIAL
**SBC HOUSING
REQUEST FORM**

MAIL TO:
SBC HOUSING BUREAU
ORLANDO/ORANGE COUNTY
CONVENTION
& VISITORS BUREAU, INC.
7208 SAND LAKE ROAD, SUITE 300
ORLANDO, FL 32819

- PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY AND COMPLETE EACH PART FOR CORRECT PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE ROOM BE NEEDED, FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED (NO MORE THAN 10 FORMS PER ENVELOPE.)
- CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

PART I

INSTRUCTIONS: NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING ROOM MUST BE ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS OCCUPYING ROOM.

(FIRST NAME) (M.I.) (LAST NAME)

(STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX NUMBER)

(CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

(AREA CODE) (PHONE NUMBER)

PART II

INSTRUCTIONS: SELECT FOUR HOTELS/MOTELS OF YOUR CHOICE.

WHEN MAKING SELECTION WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU ☐ PRICE OR ☐ LOCATION?

1st CHOICE (HOTEL CODE) 2nd CHOICE (HOTEL CODE) 3rd CHOICE (HOTEL CODE) 4th CHOICE (HOTEL CODE)

PART IIIINSTRUCTIONS: LIST NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING ROOM, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL IN PART I.
SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED AND ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE DATES.

OCCUPANTS' NAMES (PRINT LAST NAME FIRST):	Check type of room desired:	Arrival Date:
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Single (1 bed/1 person)	(Check in after 3:00p.m.)
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 bed/2 persons)	Departure Date:
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Double/Double (2 beds/2 persons)	(Check out 12:00 noon)
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple (2 beds/3 persons)	Other: _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Quad (2 beds/4 persons)	

PART IV

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT: A deposit equal to the first night's stay is required within 14 days of receipt of the SBC Housing Bureau confirmation for all participating hotels. Do not send a check with this form. Wait until you have been assigned a hotel from the SBC Housing Bureau. Deposit check should then be made payable and mailed directly to the assigned hotel. Your deposit will be returned only if hotel is notified of your cancellation at least 72 hours in advance of your scheduled arrival date. Or you may use a credit card as indicated below to guarantee reservation.

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION: The SBC Housing Bureau and assigned hotel are authorized to use this card information to assess one night's room charge for deposit on my hotel room. This deposit is non-refundable unless reservations are cancelled 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival date.

Card Type: ☐ American Express ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Diners Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____ Cardholder's Signature: _____

Hotel Code	Hotel	S/D
BWP	Best Western Plaza International	\$65/65
CPH	Clarion Plaza Hotel	\$94/94
CORT	Courtyard by Marriott	\$94/94
DIC	Days Inn Civic Center	\$70/70
DII	Days Inn International Drive	\$61/67
ENCL	The Enclave Suites at Orlando	\$87/167
	(Studio suite for 4/ 2 BR suite for 6)	
ESI	Embassy Suites Hotel-Orlando South	\$120/120
EPI	Embassy Suites Plaza International	\$124/124
FII	Fairfield Inn	\$54/54
HERI	Heritage Inn Orlando	\$76/86
HII	Holiday Inn International Drive Resort	\$79/79
HJI	Howard Johnson International Drive	\$49/49
HYO	Hyatt Orlando	\$89/89
HROI	Hyatt Regency Orlando Intl. Airport	\$84/84
ORM	Orlando Marriott	\$69/69
TPO	Peabody Hotel Orlando	\$121/121
QII	Quality Inn International	\$49/49
QIP	Quality Inn Plaza	\$51/51
RAC	Radisson Inn on International Drive	\$75/75
RHR	Ramada Hotel Resort Florida Center	\$68/68
RIP	Ramada Inn Plaza International	\$69/69
RRP	Ramada Resort Maingate at Parkway	\$65/65
RRI	Red Roof Inn	\$49/55
ROI	Rodeway Inn Civic Center	\$65/65
SHW	Sheraton World Resort	\$72/72
SVR	Sonesta Villa Resort	\$95/155
	(1 BR villa for 6/ 2 BR villa for 8)	
SOR	Stouffer Orlando Resort	\$119/119
TTH	Twin Towers Hotel	\$79/79
WYF	Wynfield Inn	\$58/58

NOTE: Room rates do not include Florida sales and occupancy tax.

Alaska Baptists up CP despite current shortfall

NORTH POLE, Alaska (BP) — The Alaska Baptist Convention has increased its 1994 Cooperative Program budget by 5.78% over the current year, despite a 7% drop in the churches' CP giving during the first seven months of 1993.

Encouraging the churches in their stewardship, convention Executive Director Bill G. Duncan used the theme "When God guides, he provides" throughout his message to the convention's 48th session, Aug. 3-4 at First Church in North Pole.

The convention's 1994 CP budget will be \$164,358, approved by 208 messengers representing more than 23,000 Baptists in 62 churches, 20 missions, and 17 preaching points. The percentage of Alaska's CP designated for Southern Baptist Convention causes will remain at 33%.

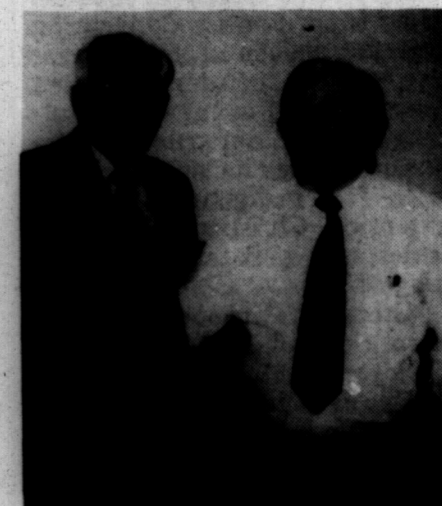
In Alaska Baptists' new three-year partnership with Mississippi Baptists, Mississippi layman Thomas Cooper Walton, Jackson, presented Duncan with a new suit, announcing that before Christmas each Alaska Baptist pastor will receive a suit as a gift from the Baptist Men of Mississippi.

Re-elected president and first vice president of the Alaska convention, respectively, were Walter Davidson, pastor of Faith Church in Anchorage, and Johnny McCoy, pastor of the North Pole host church. Paul Brewer, pastor of Solid Rock Church in Anchorage, was elected second vice president, a post he has held in previous years.

Recognition was given to retiring Southern Baptist home missionaries Don and Marianne Rollins, who have worked with Alaska natives 33 years; Louise Yarbrough, who has worked in literacy missions and was the state's first Woman's Missionary Union director during the 1950s; and Elmer Sizemore, director of missions for the Tustumena Association.

No resolutions were adopted by the convention.

Next year's meeting will be Aug. 8-9 at College Heights Church in Soldotna.



Cooper Walton, left, Mississippi layman, presents a suit to Bill Duncan, executive director of the Alaska Convention. The Mississippi and Alaska conventions are in partnership. By Christmas of this year, each pastor in Alaska will receive a suit from Mississippi Baptist laymen.

Colonial Heights, Jackson, hosts "Restoring America" seminar

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will host a "Restoring America" seminar Oct. 3-6 at 6:30 p.m.

in the worship center with noon services Oct. 4-6, 12:10-12:50 p.m. The seminar will be led by

New Orleans trustees promote 3 professors

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary's board of trustees approved three faculty promotions and one faculty accession during their semiannual September meeting in New Orleans.

The 40-member board's actions also included appointing a retiring faculty member as a professor emeritus. All actions were based on recommendations from the seminary's president, Landrum P. Leavell II, and provost, Billy K. Smith.

Promoted were Landrum P. Leavell II to professor of evangelism, Don H. Stewart to professor of ministry development, and

Mark R. Foley to assistant professor of psychology and counseling.

The election of a new faculty member, R. Alton James, filled a vacancy created by the May retirement of A. Jack Glaze, professor of missions. James's hiring is effective Sept. 30.

Trustees granted the professor emeritus title to Paul W. Gericke, professor of communications.

Jim Lee, a retired U.S. Navy captain, has been named director of development at New Orleans Seminary. He comes to the seminary after working since 1991 as a church administrator in Pensacola, Fla.

Peter Marshall Jr., son of the late Peter Marshall Sr., chaplain of the U.S. Senate from 1947-49, and Catherine Marshall, author. Marshall is the author of *The Light and the Glory* and *From Sea to Shining Sea*.

Marshall says, "... We have lost our identity as a nation. We no longer know who we are, who God created us to be — one nation under God.... It is vitally important that we learn the truth about our Christian heritage...."

During the seminar, Marshall will speak on "America's Christian Heritage," "Is There Hope for America?," "Repentance — The Prodigal Son," "Healing of Relationships," "American Christianity in the '90s: What's It Going to Take?"

For more information contact Colonial Heights Church, 5708 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS 39211; telephone (601) 956-5000. Richard A. Powell is pastor.

Ministry seeks to answer needs of oft-forgotten group

By William H. Perkins Jr.

They're frequently overlooked, because people choose not to think about them for one reason or another.

They're also desperately in need of the gospel, and that's where Mississippi Baptists step in.

Prison inmates and the workers who staff the massive state corrections facility at Parchman in the Mississippi Delta know they have a spiritual friend in Charles Jones, a Southern Baptist bivocational minister, and his wife, Hazel.

If you're going to keep up with these Joneses, you'd best get an early start.

Charles is a former director of missions for Sunflower Association who now serves as pastor of Linn Church in that association while also ministering to the people at the prison complex — one of the largest in the country.

"The Joneses are home missionaries, funded 60% by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and 40% by the SBC Home Mission Board. The Margaret Lackey Offering for State

Missions supports a sizable portion of their ministry," said Neron Smith, consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of MBCB.

Thanks to the gifts of Mississippi Baptists, the Joneses are able to run the Baptist Equipping Center, which offers a number of programs designed to enhance the spiritual well-being of Parchman workers and their families, Smith said.

The Margaret Lackey offering also helps pay insurance, maintenance costs, and other expenses of

the Joneses' ministry, he added.

Future plans are as big as the state's sprawling corrections program. A task force has been formed to detail the needs of people involved in a corrections program and expand the Parchman success story to other prison sites around Mississippi.

A church-based, statewide criminal justice ministry is the goal, according to Smith.

"The vision is to have churches and people who are God-loving, people-loving, and non-judgmental, who will be willing to minister to these broken, hurting people," he said.

Such a program will include ministries not only to inmates but also their families; ex-prisoners and their families; those who work with inmates; and eventually the victims of crimes, he added.

"This is a pioneer area. No one

has walked this path before, and we are putting this together as we go along," Smith said.

Smith said such a program, once put into action, will have astonishing results.

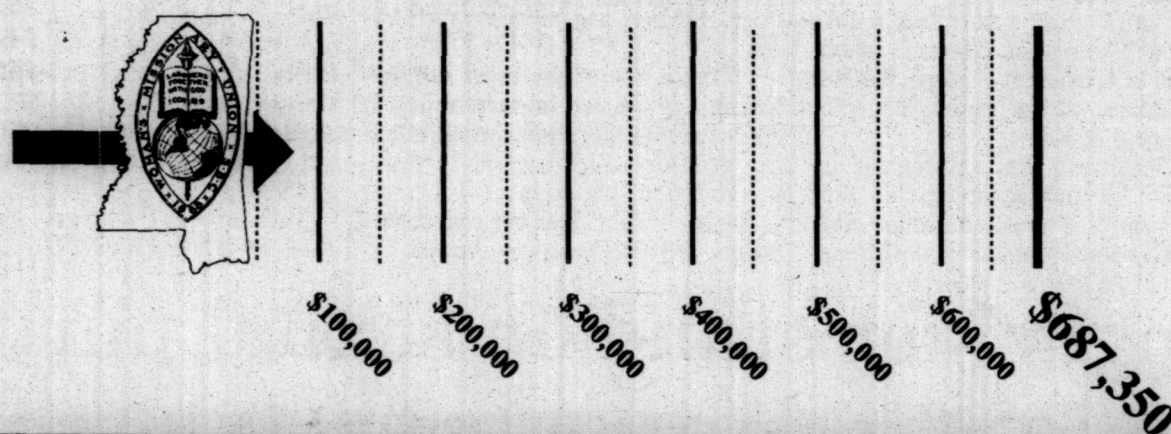
"Statistically, if an inmate and his family can be shepherded by a local church for a period of one year after release, 90% will never have another crime problem," he reported.

Smith said that indicates to him that spiritual problems are often at the root of criminal behavior and must be addressed before — and after — an inmate is injected back into society.

It's an impressive plan that will require many committed people and a great deal of resources. Smith is confident, however, that Mississippi Baptists will come through, as they have countless times in the past.

Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

Goal : \$687,350
Current : \$ 79,443



Baptist Women/Young Women retreat set Oct. 8-9 at Camp Lake Stephens

"Serve in Christ's Name" is the theme of the Baptist Women/Young Women (BW/BYW) retreat to be held Oct. 8-9 at Camp Lake Stephens retreat center outside Oxford. The retreat is being sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Highlights of the weekend include music by Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women specialist with the Southern Baptist Convention's WMU office in Birmingham, and specialty conferences by:

— Libby Panter, SBC missionary to Belarus in the former Soviet Union, on "Witnessing in Belarus."

— Marjean Patterson, executive director of Mississippi WMU, who will lead a panel discussion on "Help

for Hurting Humanity."

— Helen Price, Girls in Action (GA) camp director, on "Jesus, Wonderful Counselor."

— Kay Cassibry, GA/Mission Friends consultant, on "Protect the Children."

— Beth Holmes, Mississippi Christian Action Commission consultant for women and family issues, on "The Teen Scene, Minus Drugs."

— Jan Cossitt, Acteens consultant, on "Fellowship and Fun-time."

The retreat will begin with registration at 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 8, and will conclude with lunch the following day. Cost is \$25 payable to WMU, and registration deadline is Oct. 1. Instructions and a map to Camp Lake Stephens will be sent with registration confirmation.

of Abbeville will provide the retreat backdrop. Kim Locke of Oxford will be in charge of the Baptist Bookstore display.

Arrangements for the retreat have been made by June Overstreet (chair) of Oxford; Nell Patterson of Doris Stanfill,

Banner; and Paulette Barbee, and Pam Harris, all of Oxford.

Registration forms have been forwarded to directors of the Baptist Women programs in local churches across the state.

Registrations may be sent to McCaleb at WMU, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For more information, contact McCaleb at the above address or call (601) 968-3800.

Scoper, Barnes are named Brown-Davis Award recipients

The Brown-Davis Award and celebration event is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Highway 15 North in Laurel. The theme is, "Doing Church Through Servanthood," from Philippians 2:6-8.

Receiving the Brown-Davis Award will be Alma Barnes and Dell Scoper. These women from Laurel have championed the World Day of Prayer promoted by the Baptist World Alliance.

The award is given to those persons who serve as models of racial reconciliation. Brown and Davis served as pioneers in Mississippi by transcending culture and race as they provided goodwill leadership, according to Richard Brogan, consultant with the black church extension, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Participating in the gathering

will be Louis Lamar, pastor of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Tupelo, and Brogan, who will share in the "Breaking of Bread Interpretation."



Dell Scoper, Alma Barnes

William Neal elected editor of Georgia state paper, Christian Index

ATLANTA (BP) — William T. Neal III, a former associate editor of *The Christian Index*, was elected by the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention to join the Georgia Baptist newsjournal once again — this time as editor.

Neal, currently director of student work for the convention and a 19-year convention employee, was elected unanimously to fill the position. A starting date for Neal has not been determined.

The post has been vacant since May when former editor R. Albert

Mohler Jr. was elected president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Clarence Drummond, director of the GBC Special Missions Department, has been interim editor since that time.

Gary Abbott, chairman of *The Christian Index* board of directors, told the executive committee 25 names had been considered by the board for the position, and seven of those people had been interviewed. The decision to nominate Neal for the position was unanimous on the first ballot, he said.

Mullins

Cassibry

McCaleb

Panther

Holmes

Patterson

Cossitt

Price

Christian musicians endorse "True Love Waits"

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — Some of today's most well-known contemporary Christian recording artists publicly voiced their support Sept. 7 of a nationwide campaign aimed at encouraging teenagers and college students to remain sexually pure until marriage.

In a Nashville news conference, the artists endorsed True Love Waits, a campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board and now supported by a variety of denominations and religious organizations. As part of the campaign, thousands of young people from across the country already have signed covenants promising to remain abstinent until they marry.

To encourage those making pledges, several Christian artists have combined their talents on a new 10-song audio cassette specifically focusing on God's original design for sexuality.

Featured on the True Love Waits tape are songs like "I Don't Want It" by DC Talk; "Old Enough to Know" by Michael W. Smith; "Love" by Petra; and "I

Am Not Ashamed" by the Newsboys. Other artists performing on the tape include: DeGarmo & Key, Geoff Moore and the Distance, Kenny Marks, Lisa Beville, and Code of Ethics. It is being released by Genevox, the music publishing arm of the BSSB, in conjunction with Inter'linc, a Nashville-based agency that links contemporary Christian artists with local churches and Christian ministries.

"Music is the language of today's youth," Inter'linc president Allen Weed said. "The latest studies show that the average teen will listen to four hours of music every day. The majority are listening to mainstream secular music which has a message that is in direct conflict with the biblical view of sexuality."

"The Christian artists on the True Love Waits tape are great role models for kids today," Weed continued. "We believe getting the tape in the hands of teens who make the True Love Waits pledge will serve not only as a positive reminder of their promise, but as an encouragement to keep it."

Genevox director Mark Blankenship agreed.

"Today's youth are hit with so many conflicting messages about sex from the media, no wonder they're confused. If we can play a part in helping them understand God's plan for sexuality from the Bible and encourage them to follow it, then we will have accomplished something important," he said.

Several of the artists participating in the project attended the news conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board announcing the upcoming release of the special recording. Many were wearing white ribbons to symbolize their commitment to the campaign's theme of sexual purity outside of marriage.

"I only wish I had had some kind of focus point like this when I was a teenager," said Eddie DeGarmo, of the recording duo DeGarmo & Key.

"One thing that excites me is that we are talking about this. (In the past), Christian churches and organizations seemed to deny that

Christian young people have the same problems (as their non-Christian peers). Christian teenagers have sex. Christian teens have AIDS.... And those scars last forever," he said.

"We have got to understand that the sex game is no game. It's life and death now," Petra lead singer John Schlitt said. The father of four added, "I'm scared for my kids. If we don't get serious about (this issue), then who will?"

Michael Tate of the Christian rap group DC Talk said the mainstream media has ignored abstinence for a long time, "but it is a positive goal. I'm glad we can be a part of this."

Lisa Beville, the only female recording artist on the tape, encouraged parents to talk with their children and teenagers about sex.

"That's one of the most important things we can do as parents. I can't believe there isn't more talking going on.... We need to take this to heart," she said.

In his remarks about the campaign, BSSB President James T.

Draper Jr. mentioned the recent emphasis on True Love Waits at a Baptist camp in Oklahoma. More than 13,000 teens signed True Love Waits covenants there during the summer.

True Love Waits spokesman Richard Ross also reported the campaign is getting some international exposure as well. He recently received a mailing with 72 signed covenants from teens in Hungary who had heard about the campaign.

In addition, newspapers in London and in Ontario, Canada, have carried reports about True Love Waits, he said.

The True Love Waits recording is scheduled for release Oct. 15 and will be available in both the audio cassette and compact disc formats. It can be ordered directly from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772. It is expected to be available in Christian book stores in the first quarter of 1994.

Alford is design editor, FACTS AND TRENDS.

Black urban youths "hungry" for stand on sexual purity

By Ken Camp

HOUSTON (BP) — Thomas Walker questioned whether urban, African American teenagers would accept the True Love Waits campaign promoting sexual purity, but seeing close to 300 young people in just two weekends pledge to abstain from sex until marriage erased all doubts.

"These kids are hungry. They are starving for someone to tell them the truth," said Walker,

youth minister at Brentwood Church, Houston.

On July 17, Walker introduced True Love Waits to his youth group during an all-day workshop held in preparation for "Youth Explosion," a three-day evangelistic youth event at Brentwood involving several Houston-area black Baptist churches.

At the workshop, 94 young people signed a covenant card that

stated, "Believing that true love waits and acknowledging the biblical principle of human sexuality, I commit from this day on to remain sexually pure. Believing that God's way is always the best, I covenant with him to abstain from sexual intercourse until the day I enter into a marriage relationship."

The following week, Walker offered the True Love Waits challenge at Brentwood's Youth Explosion, and 194 young people from about a half-dozen churches took the pledge.

"At first, we thought that number included our young people, but as we began calling them to follow up, we realized these were all new commitments by kids from the other churches," Walker said.

As a result of the follow-up calls, a significant number of young people also have made professions of faith in Christ, he added.

True Love Waits is a national campaign launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board promoting sexual abstinence among teens.

Campaign backers hope to receive more than 20,000 signed covenant cards from Texas young people pledging sexual purity, according to Chris Liebrum, youth consultant in the Sunday School/discipleship division, Baptist General Convention of Texas. Hundreds of those teens are expected to participate in an Oct. 26 rally in Dallas in conjunction with the annual BGCT meeting.

Nationally, True Love Waits campaign organizers hope to receive 100,000 signed covenant cards in time for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

standard concerning sexual behavior, he added.

"Somebody said, 'You need to deal with reality.' The reality is that God said it. Somebody said, 'Tell the truth about safe sex.' The reality is that God already has," Walker said.

"I want to stay in touch with them and support them through the process," he said. "It's like I've told some of the young men, 'In 10 years, I want to see you with your wife and kids and have you come up and say, 'Rev. Walker, I made it.'"

Camp is director of public relations, BCGT.

Bama quarterback Barker shares testimony of purity

Calvary Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., has for many years sponsored "Bama Day" for the University of Alabama football team. Former Bama coach "Bear" Bryant would tell his players to be there, and they were there.

The new coach, Gene Stallings, is not quite as forceful; yet still about 60% of the team was present on Bama Day to hear Mississippi-an Jerry Clower entertain.

Clower told the players and the congregation about a real Champion; to serve on his team is eternal.

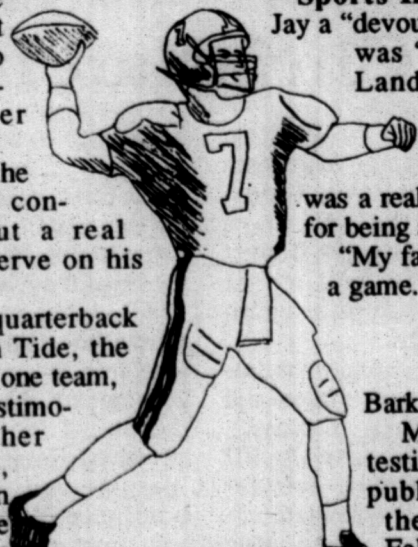
Jay Barker, quarterback for the Crimson Tide, the nation's number one team, also gave his testimony. Among other things, he said, "I've never taken a drink, I've never taken drugs, and I'm a virgin."

The 6'3", 209-pound quarterback credits his parents Jerome and Barbara Barker as the guiding influence to his life in Jesus Christ. "My parents have always been my best friends, and my father is my role model." His family is active in First Church of Trussville, Ala.

Sports Illustrated labeled Jay a "devout bore," whose goal was "to go to the Holy Land and see where Jesus lived and ministered." Jay commented that it was a real joy to be criticized for being a Christian.

"My faith helps me a lot in a game. I rely on the Lord's support and I realize I am nothing without him," said Barker.

Much of Barker's testimony was recently published in Victory, the magazine of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



NASHVILLE — Michael Tate (center) of the Christian rap group DC Talk visits with Carolyn Poirier and Todd Temple following a Sept. 7 press conference at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Poirier is a representative from Brock and Associates in Brentwood, Tenn., and Temple is a San Diego, Calif., resident who writes books for children and teens. The conference was held to announce the upcoming release of the True Love Waits audiocassette and compact disc. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

HouseTops

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 23, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

Sept. 23-Oct. 7

PRAY for Missionary Ed Pinkston and the printing of the Bete (pronounced bay-tay) New Testament in the Ivory Coast (West Africa).

PRAY for a young man in Ireland, named Neil, who has been imprisoned for repeated shop lifting. Journeyman Rodney Whittle asks for prayer for Neil's salvation.

PRAY for Indonesian Baptists who are seeking to plant 500 more new churches by 1995. New visa pressures indicate that missionary visas may be renewed only up to three years. Pray that new visas will be granted.

PRAY for Ron and Betty Hartell, who recently transferred to Ethiopia from Kenya. Their prayer needs are: health, strength, adjustment to the new culture, safety on the roads and direction in evangelizing.

PRAY for the Noon Day Feeding ministry of FBC, Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was begun in 1978 to feed the hungry each Wednesday for a month. It has continued and to date has fed and ministered to 500,000 people.

THANK GOD and pray for the youth groups of the SBC known as "World Changers." They participate in church work projects, including roofing, painting and building additional rooms.

PRAY for the Mid-South School of Evangelism and Church Growth to be held at the New Orleans Seminary Oct. 14-16, 1993. This project is jointly sponsored by the Seminary, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School and Evangelism Departments., the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

PRAY for Mississippians engaged in work overseas who request our prayers:

Dr. and Mrs. Bill Nettles and children, Claire and Philip, who have just arrived in Russia to do a year of volunteer work.

PRAYERGRAM continued on back of HOUSETOPS

Lay Missions Conference

Marketplace Ministry:
"Going Into Your Marketplace"







The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

November 15, 1993
First Baptist Church, Jackson
 Conference: 3:00 p.m.
 Banquet: 5:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Deadline for reservations is
November 10

REGISTRATION FORM Lay Missions Conference

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$7.50 each (payable to Miss. Baptist Convention)

☐ I will need preschool care (ages birth to 5 years) Ages of Children _____

Names and birthdays of children: _____

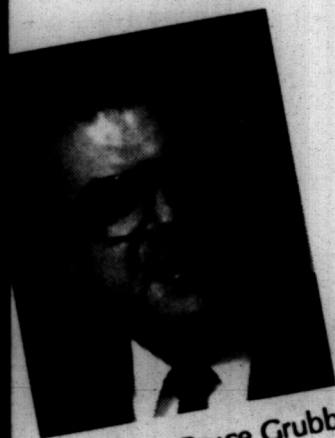
Mail to: Brotherhood Department • Missions Banquet • P.O. box 530 • Jackson MS 39205-0530

CONTEMPORARY MODELS FOR CHURCH GROWTH IN YOUR CONTEXT

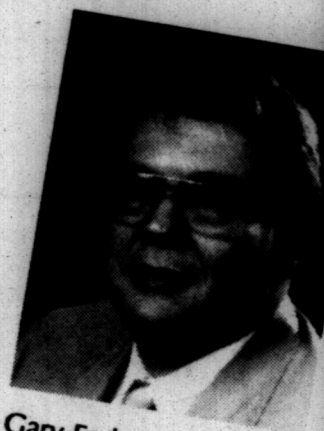
November 1-2, 1993

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Downtown Holiday Inn
Jackson, Mississippi**



Bruce Grubbs



Gary Farley



Ebbie Smith



Nelson Tilton

- Gain insights and practical approaches for developing and growing churches.
- Ministry opportunities specific to your situation will be addressed
- Pastors of growing churches will share effective models of ministry.
- Church staff members and leaders, associational and state leaders, and other interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Church leaders interested in Church Growth will want to attend the "Contemporary Models for Church Growth in Your Context," to be held November 1-2, in the Downtown Holiday Inn in Jackson. A \$20.00 registration fee if paid by October 1, will save \$5.00 according to Richard Brogan, consultant, in the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Leading the Models for Growth event from out of state will be: Ebbie Smith, Professor at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Bruce Grubbs, Manager, Pastoral Leadership, Administration Section, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, Nelson Tilton, Director, Office of Leadership Support, Associational Missions Division, Home Mission

Board, Atlanta, Georgia, and Gary Farley, Director, Office of Town and Country Missions, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia. In-state presenters will include: Loyd Allen, Ken Anderson, James Fancher, Jim Futral, J. C. Prather, Frank Thomas, Jr., Dottie Williamson and J.M. Wood.

Persons can register at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Jackson, phone number 969-5100. The registration fee should be sent to Richard Brogan, Cooperative Missions Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. See registration form on back of HOUSETOPS.

Some scholarships will be provided. Persons interested in assistance can contact the Director of Missions in their association.

MISSISSIPPI/ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP

1994 Evangelism Projects and Dates

GOAL: To establish urban and rural congregations.

PLAN: Seven groups of ten or more persons from Mississippi will be assigned to various areas to work with nationals and missionaries. Each group will be divided into two teams. Each team will consist of one primary preacher, and the rest are "testifiers." The testifiers will witness, teach the provided follow-up materials, sing or help in counseling. Each team member will be paired with a Zimbabwean who will help with translation when necessary. During the mornings house-to-house or hut-to-hut visitation will take place. This visitation is for evangelism and/or invitation to evening services. Names of those making professions of faith will be kept so that they may be compared to those responding in the evening. Evening services will consist of singing, testimonies, preaching and sometimes films like the *Jesus* film.

The visiting team will prepare to return home, but the sponsoring church will continue the follow-up using locally produced materials called Christian Beliefs. Those who profess Christ and complete the studies will be baptized (hopefully the following week) and become the nucleus of a new congregation.

DATES: 1994
January 17 - February 3
February 21 - March 10
May 9 - 26
June 13 - 30
July 18 - August 4
September 19 - October 6
October 24 - November 10

SCHEDULE FOR EACH GROUP IN ZIMBABWE:

Wednesday, day one -
Arrival and orientation
Thursday, day two -
Orientation continues
Friday, day three -
Orientation concludes
Saturday, day four -
Travel to location, set-up, meet local volunteers
Sunday, day five -
Worship with local volunteers
Monday-Friday, day 6 - 10 -
Daytime witnessing, teaching, evening evangelistic services
Saturday, day eleven -
Rest
Sunday, day twelve -
Morning service with new converts
Monday, day thirteen -
Travel to Harare for debriefing
Tuesday, day fourteen -
Optional travel to Victoria Falls for sightseeing
Wednesday, day fifteen -
Return to Harare, leave for U.S.

For more information, contact the Partnership Office, 968-3800. □

Tri-State Camporee

The Tri-State Camp-O-Ree is a two day (Friday and Saturday) camp where boys in grades 1-12 may enjoy competition in campcraft and share interest activities. The purpose of this event is to help Royal Ambassador leaders encourage Christian ideals in Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men through study, meaningful relationships, and Christian example. This is a Brotherhood sponsored event but all boys in the above grades may attend—they do not have to be members of a RA chapter or High School Baptist Young Men's group.

The day and a half is packed with fun and educational activities. Some of the activities are canoe races, compass, mission booths, Bible drills, fishing rodeo, and pinewood derby races. Each boy that participates will receive a 1993 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree chevron to go with the Tri-State Camp-O-Ree patch which is available for cost.

Most chapters tent camp but cabins are available on a first come basis. Chapters that rent cabins may cook their meals or make reservations to eat in the cafeteria.

The cost is \$4.00 per RA if camping and \$3.00 if staying in cabins. If you eat meals in the cafeteria there are additional costs as follows: Breakfast - \$3.50, Lunch - \$3.50, Dinner - \$4.00.

If you are interested in attending this year's Camp-O-Ree, contact the state Brotherhood Department (968-3800 ext. 3935) for an informational packet with registration forms.

Make your plans to attend along with the over 1,075 who participated in 1992. Make sure you are there when the attendance breaks 1,500! ☐



Arnold L. Norsworthy, Director of Christian Ministries Department, Louisiana Baptist Convention, shares ideas with 25 leaders about starting new work through ministries. Norsworthy identifies storefront ministry as "any building, manufactured (mobile) housing, apartments, and homes where Bible study, worship, and meeting human needs happens."

Norsworthy said that the more than 50 storefront ministries in Louisiana baptized over 1200 persons in 1992. Meeting needs, loving people and accepting them in their setting must be the agenda according to the Louisiana leader.

LIFE SUPPORT OVERVIEW

A LIFE Support overview will take place in three locations across Mississippi in late September. LIFE Support is a series of ministries churches will be able to offer after intensive training.

Areas of ministry will include development of support groups for codependency, sexual abuse, grief recovery, divorce, chemical dependency, depression, and dysfunctional families.

Each overview location will offer eight hours of training. This training includes explaining administrative structure for support

groups, support group ministry models, description of codependency addiction and of dysfunctional family characteristics, criteria for selecting leaders and facilitators, and a description of group dynamics.

The sessions will be Sept. 27 at Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg; Sept. 28 at the Lee County Associational office in Tupelo; and Sept. 30 at Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg. Each will be from 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Supper and the leader book are included in the \$12.50 cost.

Leader for the sessions will be Johnny Jones of the Baptist Sunday School Board, a specialist for LIFE Support.

Robin Nichols of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department said this overview does not train leaders to begin support groups. "But it will help churches understand they can meet people's needs." Nichols said that training of leaders in these areas will take "no less than 52 weeks before the first class is offered."

For details of the program, contact Nichols at 968-3800. ☐

Annual Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives

First Baptist Church, Jackson
Monday, November 15, 1993
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

❖ Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information
and Support for the Minister's Wife!

❖ There is no cost for this conference.

❖ Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis.
Please use registration form to schedule this care.

Program Personnel

BETTY BAGGOTT, Minister's Wife, First Baptist Church, Birmingham
Finding Joy in the Midst of the Fish Bowl

Betty Baggott



CANDY ANDERSON, Minister's Wife, Parkway
Baptist Church, Jackson
*The Minister's Wife: Rowing
Along in a Boat of Your Own*

Candy Anderson



**SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK OF
HOUSETOPS**

Alice Germany Nettles is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Archie Germany, retired from the Miss. College faculty.;

Stacy O'Quin of Tylertown, has just arrived in the Philippines as a Journeyman and will be teaching missionary children. Pray for her health and adjustment.;

John and Jean Jacobs, who are teaching the first semester at Barbados Baptist College in the West Indies. They ask for prayer that God will grant the physical and spiritual resources they need for this challenge.;

PRAY for Roger and Janice Capps, Southern Baptist missionaries who are being transferred from Singapore to Bulgaria. Also pray for five new Journeymen who are scheduled to work with them. They are waiting for the government to grant them visas.

PRAY for the spirit of revival that is sweeping over Egypt. An estimated 20,000 people have come to know the Lord. The Islamic Brotherhood strongly opposes the movement. Pray that Christians will stand firm in their faith.

PRAY that Dr. Rebekah Naylor's permission to practice medicine in Bangalore, India, be renewed by the Indian Medical Council. Her permit will expire this month.

PRAY for Gordon and Alice Tennis who work

with the Three Rivers Baptist Church of Hastings, Minn. They continue to meet in the Hastings Middle School auditorium. Pray for their outreach and a solution for a church building.

PRAY for Joe Glaze of the Richmond, Va. Baptist Association as he works with children of the inner city. Glaze asks for volunteers to help the staff at the Baptist centers.

PRAY for Myrna Currie of Pampano Beach, Fla., as she works with the Gulf Stream Baptist Association in multi housing ministry. Myrna is a Mission Service Corps volunteer and needs other volunteers to help. Pray that this ministry may have adequate finances.

PRAY for the Mississippi Baptist Student Conference to be held at First Baptist Church, Jackson, on Sept. 24-25, 1993.

PRAY for the Baptist colleges of Mississippi as they have begun the school year. Ask God to help Mississippi College, William Carey College and Blue Mountain College to continue their pursuit of excellence intellectually and spiritually.

PRAY for 'Wilda Trenor Fancher (Mrs. James) who has begun work as Volunteer Coordinator of the Prayer Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Continue to pray that Mississippi will be united in a network of churches with an Intercessory Prayer Ministry. ☐



REGISTRATION FORM Contemporary Models for Church Growth in Your Context

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
JACKSON, MISS.
NOVEMBER 1-3, 1993

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Position _____

Church Name _____

Telephone _____

Mail this form with a check for \$20 (before October 1) or \$25 (after October 1) payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to:

Richard Brogan
Cooperative Missions Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

REGISTRATION FORM Annual Conference of MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

Complete the registration form and return to Julius C. Thompson, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name _____ Home Phone No. _____

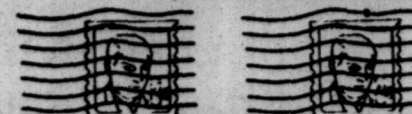
Church _____ Association _____

Church Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Husband's Position _____

Names and ages of children you will bring: _____

Letters to the editor



God blesses church

Editor:

God is good! We, the members of Calvary Church in Canton, know firsthand just how good he is.

The first week of August 1992, the doors of Calvary Church were on the verge of being closed. There were only four or five families attending church and there was not any way these families could support the church financially. The pastor of over 10 years moved on to another church. The future of the church did not look good at all. We were sent someone from the Hinds-Madison Association to bring the message on the second Sunday. All that we could do was take one Sunday at a time and pray.

Our heavenly Father, who had his own plans for this church, heard our prayers. He stepped in and sent Thomas McKay from Richland to Calvary Church on the third Sunday of August 1992. This is when God's blessings began and he hasn't stopped blessing us. From Aug. 16, 1992, through Aug. 29, 1993, the Lord has sent 100 new members to Calvary Church.

The number of new members is great, but the best part is that the

Holy Spirit is here! It doesn't matter what type of service is held, whether it is a regular worship service, a prayer service, or a singing, you can feel the Lord's presence at Calvary. God took this church and completely turned it around. We all know that as long as we give him the glory for this miracle, God will continue to bless us.

To those of us who were in attendance that third Sunday in August 1992, there is only one way to express what we are feeling now — praise the Lord! God is good!

Members of Calvary Church
Canton

Position on abortion?

Editor:

In the Aug. 26 issue, "Letters to the Editor" section of *The Baptist Record*, there is an Editor's Note: "To my knowledge there is no such thing as the 'Baptist position on abortion.'" If this is correct, it is to our shame!

I presume the editor is referring to the old cliché that "one Baptist cannot speak for another Baptist." But one Christian ought to be able to speak for another Christian since our authority source, the

Bible, is the same for all.

We say we are "people of the book," and I find the book very clear and I use it with confidence. The Bible tells us "thou shalt not kill," "thou shalt not commit adultery," "thou shalt not steal." Where is there any confusion?

It is inconceivable to me that anyone could conclude that Christians could with impunity kill their unborn child since "the child would be unwelcome and an inconvenience" to the mother. The unborn is a baby... it is a living being, and it is killed by abortion, the beating heart is stopped!

Recently, an abortionist who botched his work succeeded only in tearing off an arm. He was found guilty of mutilating the child and was sentenced to a term of 36 years. Are we saying that if he had been successful in killing the child we Baptists would "have no position on abortion?"

No wonder the world so often sees the church as a "trumpet giving an uncertain sound!"

Roy V. Sims
Jackson

Editor's Note: As a Christian, I am opposed to abortion. Most Baptists are, but I still know of no official "Baptist position on abortion." The SBC has passed several resolutions opposing abortion but these are not binding on churches or individuals.

Choice & responsibility

Editor:

I have read with great interest recently the letters written to you regarding the issue of abortion. As I see it, there is one area that needs to be exposed, that being the issue of "choice."

Abortion rights proponents would have us believe that all they want is the "right to choose" an abortion. This, in a very subtle way, is their attempt to move the emphasis from what abortion actually is, to a matter of choice, not the murder of an unborn child.

As I see this issue, those who favor "pro-choice" already have a choice. God, in his infinite wisdom, made us to be creatures with our own free will. Since we have a free will, we have the ability to choose, regardless of the circumstances that might come from our choice. For instance, since I have a free will and am capable of making decisions, I have the choice to walk into a crowded church or restaurant and open fire with a

loaded Uzi. As a person, I have that choice. However, if that choice is made, I also choose the consequences that go with that choice. I can choose to go 70 miles per hour in a 35 mile-per-hour speed zone, but in so choosing, I also choose the consequences that come as a result of my choice, if I am caught. What these "pro-choice" advocates want is the choice without the responsibility.

I have also heard it said, "We can't legislate morality." Why not? Do we not already legislate morality? Isn't murder or stealing a matter of morality? Didn't God cover those (as well as other) moral questions in the Ten Commandments? Yes, morality CAN be legislated, for it already has been.

Once again, I think it comes back to a question of responsibility. There can be no freedom without an equal amount of responsibility on the other side. I am reminded of a quote made by Bill Gothard several years ago, and I think it is worth repeating: "When we preach rights, we get rebellion, but when we preach responsibility, we get revival."

Ron Bolen
Ashland

Rewarding work

Editor:

Over the Labor Day weekend, a group from the East Central Community College BSU and a group of Brotherhood men from the Leake County Association ventured to Winfield, Mo., to work in the flood relief effort.

We went to serve, but we were the ones who received the greatest blessings. All of us wished that we had more time to give because the need is so great. We saw the results of those who have given through food and cleaning supply drives. These gifts have already blessed the hearts of the Missouri people. However, these people are in need of physical labor help. The work required is overwhelming, and many of the people feel defeated before they can even begin clean-up.

Some Mississippians understand flood damage. Others of us are not aware of the physical requirements necessary for clean-up. A bulldozer cannot come through and clean up. Paneling, wall board, insulation, and floors must be torn out. Then the nails must all be pulled; very tedious

and slow work. When the structure dries, then rebuilding will take place. The outside of the buildings must be washed down and repainted. But, if there is no one to help, the work will go undone or take a long time to be completed.

One of our teams spent one day at the Clarksville, Mo., Baptist Church. The basement of this church had been six feet under sewage water. There was a loss of their kitchen facilities, bathroom facilities, and some classroom space. This church membership is mostly older people, and at present they have no pastor. We could not complete our cleaning job because the dumping facility filled up. Our hope is that another work team will go to complete the job and begin the repairs. What a wonderful ministry opportunity for any church group or for any individual who has a servant heart. Will you give your time, strength, and support in a labor of Christian love?

Juanita West, faculty member
ECCC BSU flood relief team

Digressed so far

Editor:

In America today, you can put in print or on film anything you choose, no matter how immoral, indecent, or sinful, and become a millionaire because of it. You can burn the American flag. A woman can mutilate and murder her unborn child, and not everywhere in America can you stand and read the Holy Bible or pray aloud.

In some American universities, there are books in their libraries on Satan worship (paid for by tax dollars), they hold meetings on Satan worship, yet there are no Bibles there, no prayers, and no Pledge of Allegiance. For the Christian or anyone who really cares, this is indeed an American tragedy. We are witnessing a modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah. One reason is greed. Our quest for more and bigger and better has caused us to fall deeper and deeper into moral decay. Another reason for so many of our problems — there are no more mamas and daddies and kids at the supper table or around the fireplace with Bible reading and sharing each other's concerns — instead we have one-parent families, fast food, day care, and who is really watching the children? Nobody, but the children are watching us and seeing that we're not walking what we talk, except in church for two hours on Sunday morning.

Another factor is — all too often television, VCRs, and Nintendo are our baby sitter. Somebody has to stand up and say this is wrong. What was wrong when Jesus walked this earth is just as wrong today. Long ago America was progressing, but she's now digressing in that we have fallen so far away from what God intended and what our forefathers fought and died for.

Betty Milner
Ethel

First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.,

has raised its Cooperative Program giving from

3 percent to 10 percent

in two years.

First Baptist Church, Albemarle, N.C., has met its

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal every year for the last

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Call 649-5710 for more information.

Limited seats available.

Just for the Record



A group from Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg, attended the Gulfshore Sunday School Conference in July. Pictured are Robert, Rox Ann, Robyn, and Kimberly Dowe; Marty, Rhonda, Matthew, Tyler, and Andrew Hendrix; Dennis and Sherry Cahill; Bill, Joey, and Katy

Wade; Anne Rutland; Kay Smith; Jesse and Johnnie Marshall; Denise and Brian Bullock; James, Susan, Bradley, and Andrew Mills; Barry, Brenda, Lance, and Blake Warnock; Woodie and Debbie Beach; and Dennis Moore.



Central Grove Church, Aberdeen, held ground breaking ceremonies on Aug. 14 for a new auditorium. Pictured, from left, are Mrs. Louise Conaway (oldest member); David Walls (trustee); E. G. Nicholson Jr. (trustee, deacon); Bailey Haney (trustee); J. T. Ray (oldest member, deacon); T.J. Tucker (trustee); and George Sisk (trustee, deacon). Also pictured is Dennis Smithey, pastor. Other members on the building committee, not pictured, are Paula Andrews and Beverly Haney.



Bethel Church, Columbus, recently held groundbreaking services for the construction of a multi-purpose building to be used as an education building and fellowship hall. The building committee with David Brooks, pastor, is pictured, from left, Larry Shannon, Gayron Wittke, Brooks, Nathan Watson, Dean Green, Leon Moore, and Bobby Jones, Sunday School director. Not pictured is Tom England.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will offer free health screenings at the Deposit Guaranty Plaza crosswalk in Jackson, Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, TB, hearing, and fitness (including body fat, height, and weight) will also be offered free, along with blood pressure checks. Screening for prostate cancer will be available for \$5. For more information, call (601) 968-5135.

Fairview Church, Columbus, will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sept. 26. Services will be at 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mississippi Singing Churchmen will be concert at First Church, Cleveland, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m.

The Gospel Messengers will hold concerts the following dates and occasions: Sept. 25, Penantly school reunion, Mt. Vernon Church, Hero; Sept. 26, 1:30 p.m., Beulah Church, Lexington; Oct. 8, 9:30 p.m., and Oct. 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Mississippi State Fair, A & I buildings; Oct. 10, Yates family reunion, Noxapater.

Mississippi College will offer a series of reviews to aid students in preparing for the upcoming ACT testing, Saturdays mornings, Sept. 25-Oct. 16. Four topics will be presented; students may register for any one or all of the review sessions. Each Saturday session is \$15. For further details, contact the MC Division of Continuing Education by calling (601) 925-3264.

Staff Changes

Wilson Winstead, pastor of Briar Hill Church, Florence, for 13 years, will retire. He and his wife will be honored on Sept. 26 as they begin their retirement from full-time ministry. There will be a worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner at noon, and a worship service at 1:30 p.m.

Carson Ridge Church, Attala Association, has called Donald Riley from Marion County as pastor effective Sept. 5. He previously pastored Carson Ridge Church from 1981 to 1984.

Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, has called William E. "Butch" Knight Jr. as pastor effective Sept. 5. A native of Slayden, he received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary.

Chester Church, Ackerman, has called David Grisham as pastor effective Sept. 8. A native of

Booneville, he received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Community Church in Columbus.

Kiely D. Young has been called as pastor of First Church, Gulfport. He previously served



Young

First Church, Greenville. The Meridian native was educated at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Jack Bennett, pastor of First Church, Ripley, has resigned after nine years in the pastorate of that church.

Midwest still needs cleanup volunteer help, says Harrell

As Midwest flood waters recede, opportunities for cleanup help are rising. Mississippi Baptists have given themselves and their money in a big way.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reported that 135 volunteers have traveled to the devastated area to help with cleanup, and Mississippi Baptists have given \$58,000 toward recovery.

Money channeled through the Brotherhood's disaster relief program will be "primarily targeting Iowa, Missouri, and our partnership state of Illinois," said Harrell.

Persons interested in helping with cleanup should contact the Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800. The department will route volunteers through established contacts in the areas.

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

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—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

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In a single flash, 90 people lost their house.

Revival Dates

Antioch, Columbus: Sept. 26-Oct. 1; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Barefield, Ripley, evangelist; Mac Pace, Columbus, music; Edward N. Knox, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Bob Strebeck, Chunky, music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Bethesda, Fayette: Sept. 26-30; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Steve Purvis, evangelist; Mike Harri-gal, pastor.

First, Pascagoula: Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Bob Hamblin, Tupelo, evangelist; Russell Newport, Missouri, music; Rex Yancey, pastor.

Nineteenth Avenue, Hattiesburg: Sept. 26-29; Sunday morning at 11 and evenings at 7 p.m.; O.B. Robertson, Military, Sumrall, evangelist; Jay Rush-ton, Sand Hill (Jones) music; Grady B. Parker, pastor.

Foxworth (Marion): Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert McLane, Alexandria, La., evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City, music; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

Swiftwater, Greenville: Sept. 26-29; services are noon with lunch served and 7 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, Ridgeland, evangelist; Steve Bennett, Greenville, music; Gene Foshee, pastor.

Kirkville (Itawamba): Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; different speakers each day; Jimmy McFatter, Amory, Sunday; Danny Rushing, Mantachie, Monday; Terry Cutrer, Baldwin, Tuesday; and Martin Hayden, Fulton, Wednesday; Dennis Salley, pastor.

First, Flowood: Sept. 26-29; Sunday services, Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served at church; Discipleship Training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; G. R. (Ricky) Gray, pastor.

Lakeland, Mantachie: Oct. 3-6; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Gardner, speaker; Danny Rushing, pastor.

Temple, Forest: Sept. 26-Oct. 1; 7 nightly; Cary Smith, Union, evangelist; Bill Henderson, pastor.

Springdale, Ripley: Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; Bruce Cappleman, Jackson, evangelist; Shane

Price, Booneville, music; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

Peoples, Ripley (Benton-Tippah): Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clifford Rice, Campbell, Mo., evangelist; Tony B. Monk, pastor.

First, Lake: Sept. 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Dan Panter, missionary to Russia, evangelist; Tony Moore, Jackson, music; Ken McLemore, pastor.

Homecomings

Kilmichael (Montgomery): Sept. 26; regular Sunday School and worship schedule; covered dish lunch, noon; evening services; Joe Crout, pastor.

Revival Results

Midway, Moss Point: Sept. 5-12; Tommy Phelps, Amarillo, Texas, preacher; Elmo Mercer, music; seven professions of faith; 36 rededications; Ralph Young is pastor.

Thursday, September 23, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Loyal subscriber turns 100

Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown, will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Oct. 3. During morning services at 10:30, Lannie Wilbourn, pastor of Pinelake Church, Brandon, will be guest speaker. A dinner on the grounds will follow at noon, with afternoon services at 1:30. Organized Nov. 18, 1893, charter members numbered only 53. The church, pastored by Jeff Burris, now has 263 resident members. Crystal Springs Church has been on The Baptist Record's "Every Family Plan" since 1938.

Mississippian continues retirement writing ministry

A former Mississippi pastor and director of missions continues his preaching and writing ministry after retiring as editor of trade books from Broadman Press.

Joseph (Joe) S. Johnson Jr., 60, a resident of Mississippi from 1948-70, pastored Spring Hill Church, Oakland; Sunrise, Hattiesburg; Edwards; Lake Como, Bay Springs; and Southside, Lucedale. He was also director of missions for Jasper and George associations.

At Broadman he served as audiovisual production consultant (1970-73) and editor of inspirational and/or trade books (1973-92).

At Broadman, Johnson was editor for authors such as former President Jimmy Carter, Astronaut Jim Irwin, Anita Bryant, Evangelist Grady Wilson, SBC presidents, and others. He published many Mississippi authors, includ-

ing Frank Pollard, Larry Kennedy, Hardy Denham, Wilda Fancher, Joe Odle, Chester Swor, and Harold Bryson.

He edited in excess of 550 books for Broadman, "ghosted" over 100, and has written over 1,200 free-lance articles since the age of 15. He authored three of his own books with Broadman: *Preacher, You're the Best PASTURE We've Ever Had!*, *Precious Promises*, and *A Field of Diamonds*.

He is married to the former Mary Sue Latham of Tunica, and they have three grown sons. Mrs. Johnson, is a graduate of Mississippi College.

Johnson is a graduate of Central High School, Jackson; Mississippi College; and New Orleans Seminary. He was licensed by Calvary Church, and ordained by Highland Church, both in Jackson.

He is busy with supply preaching and pastoring and does free-lance writing, consultation, and editing. The Johnsons' address is 2915 Walnut Crest Drive, Antioch, TN 37013.

Homecomings

Friendship, Aberdeen: Sept. 26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish, noon; singing, 1-2:30 p.m.; Todd Bowen, pastor, speaker; Dudley Brasher, Starkville, guest singer.

Hope, Philadelphia: Sept. 26; 11 a.m.; Wayne Crenshaw, Pelahatchie, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; Heaven Bound of Philadelphia, guest singers, 1:30 p.m.; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Beulah, Lexington: Sept. 26; Bible study, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; singing at 1:30 p.m.; David Skinner, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, guest speaker; The Gospel Messengers, Florence, guest

singers; James O. Lee, pastor.

Belden (Lee): Sept. 26; 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; James Travis, Blue Mountain, guest speaker; Don Baggett, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Sept. 26; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon singing; Emon White, pastor, speaker.

Faith Memorial, Poplarville: Sept. 26; 11 a.m. service; lunch; singing in the afternoon; Jeff Vandalingham, pastor.

Tyro Community, Senatobia: Sept. 26; worship, 11 a.m. at Tyro Baptist Church; pot luck lunch, Tyro Community Center; Gary Newton, speaker.



It is time to seek the Lord

— Hosea 10:12, KJV

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Pascagoula men aid seniors

The Brotherhood of Parkway Church, Pascagoula, recently volunteered time and effort to repair and paint the home of Lala Patrick and Lucy Scott. Men who participated were: David Martin, Butch Arnold, Jack House, Charles Zeigler, Guy Davis, Shelton Lawson, Don Bosley, Rudy Skinner, Owen Langley, Mac Heilman, Johnny Nations Jr., David Coleman, and Ed Johnson. Not pictured is Curtis Rinks.

Effort to stack boards comes to crashing halt

An effort launched in July to stack the General Board and four of the Baptist institution/agency boards with conservatives came to a crashing halt five weeks later with its leader making a personal apology to the nominating committee of South Carolina Convention.

Al Phillips, associate pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, wrote July 14 to selected members of the nominating committee. He urged them to nominate conservatives for vacancies on the General Board, and to the boards of Anderson and North Greenville colleges, Charleston Southern University, and the Baptist Courier.

Phillips provided a list of candidates for each board, identifying them as committed conservatives.

He also identified the 44-member nominating committee as including 16 conservatives, 14 moderates, nine swing voters, and three of whom he was unsure. (The committee has two vacancies).

But somebody in Phillips' trust-

ed circle let the letter fall into other hands. Copies were made and circulated widely across the state. All or virtually all members of the nominating committee also received copies.

Most committee members were angry at being labeled, and even more angry by what they regarded as interference in their work.

Phillips was quick to admit his mistake at the next scheduled meeting. Although not a member, he asked chairman Bob Ferguson of Seneca and Carlisle Driggers, convention executive secretary/treasurer, for an opportunity to apologize to the nominating committee.

They continued the two-day meeting in routine fashion, although several complained that Phillips had mislabeled them. Only two or three from his list will be nominees, according to some committee members.

Taken from the BAPTIST COURIER, newsjournal of South Carolina Convention.

Virginia church grants pastor paternity leave

SCOTTSVILLE, Va. (ABP) — Ask Mark King how he spent his summer vacation and he will proudly tell you — on paternity leave.

King, pastor of Scottsville Church, Scottsville, Va., was granted paternity leave with half pay and benefits from mid-May to mid-August so he could be with his wife for the birth of their first child.

The historic church is one of the first, if not the first, in the Southern Baptist Convention to provide paternity leave for its pastor.

The leave was the result of the Kings' unique family circumstances.

For almost five years, Mark King has been pastor of the 150-member Scottsville congregation, which was the childhood church of

Southern Baptist missions pioneer Lottie Moon. King's wife, Phyllis Lile-King, is an attorney serving a one-year appointment as a clerk for the United States Sixth Court of Appeals.

But while Scottsville is in central Virginia, the Court of Appeals is in Danville, Ky., 400 miles away.

King, 33, did not want to resign the Scottsville pastorate, his first. His wife did not feel she could turn down the coveted clerkship with the U.S. Court of Appeals. Her appointment did not end until August. Their baby was due in early July.

"It was a time of real turbulence deciding what to do," said Mark King. "I wanted to be with her before the baby and afterwards."

SBC leaders' moral concerns aired on Focus on the Family

By Chip Alford

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — A war is under way for the preservation of traditional family values and there is only one hope for victory — active involvement by the organized church.

That was the message of Christian author and speaker James Dobson during a recent taping of his "Focus on the Family" radio show which featured interviews with Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. and Southern Baptist Convention President H. Edwin Young. The show, titled "Southern Baptists: Reasserting Traditional Values," is tentatively scheduled to air Nov. 3 on some 2,000 radio stations nationwide.

One reason for society's worsening moral condition, Dobson said, is a pervasive relativism that excuses sin in the name of individual rights. He cited a Barna Research Group report which showed a majority of Americans don't believe in any form of absolute truth.

"That just blows me away. That's a foundation for everything we do," he said.

Any lasting change in society's moral condition won't come about through the efforts of para-church organizations like Focus on the Family alone, Dobson said, but will instead require the active involvement of local churches. He said he is excited that a number of denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, are making "a move back toward traditional values and the recognition

that we have to defend them."

Draper said he has seen the SBC take on a new focus in recent years, combining an emphasis on biblical truth and absolutes with a concentration on evangelism, missions, and moral issues like the sanctity of life.

"It is our responsibility (as Christians) to be involved in our society," Draper said. "We are accountable."

As an example of effective church involvement in confronting moral issues, Dobson lauded the Baptist Sunday School Board's True Love Waits campaign. The year-long emphasis encourages teenagers and college students to sign a covenant promising to remain sexually pure until they marry. Tens of thousands of teens from across the country already have done so.

"It excites me to see the way this (campaign) is exploding," Draper said. "The response has been absolutely mind-boggling." He specifically mentioned the 13,000-plus teens who made the True Love Waits pledge at Falls Creek Assembly in Oklahoma during the summer months and thousands more who made the same commitment at the Texas Youth Evangelism Conference. But he pointed out the campaign is designed not only to "sign up kids," but to mobilize adults and families in communities to say to teens: "We will stand with you for sexual purity."

"The pressure is awful for teenagers caught up in this sexual

whirlwind we have today," Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, said. True Love Waits lets young people who decide to abstain from sex until marriage realize they are not alone and provide encouragement and accountability to one another, he said.

Teens can use the positive support, Dobson agreed, pointing to a study by Planned Parenthood which showed peer pressure is the No. 1 reason teens become sexually active.

Dobson said the message of True Love Waits give teenagers "an excuse to say no — a reason to say no."

"And it's not just for virgins," Young added. Youths who already have engaged in sex can receive forgiveness and still make the commitment to purity, he said.

Dobson also praised the SBC for its stand against homosexuality. Messengers to last summer's annual meeting in Houston approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches that "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" as "not in cooperation" with the convention and thus ineligible to send messengers to annual meetings.

"It's so important for the church to take a stand," Dobson said, adding there needs to be "a message of compassion, but repentance, too."

Young said his church offers support groups for homosexuals interested in turning away from their lifestyle.

"We want to show them there is a more excellent way.... We want to share a message of grace and love and a second chance," he said.

Alford is design editor, FACTS AND TRENDS, BSSB.



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Christian author and speaker James Dobson (left), and Mike Trout, vice president for broadcasting for Focus on the Family (right), talked with Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. (second from left) and Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young when Draper and Young were interviewed recently for Dobson's nationwide radio program. (BP photo by Chip Alford)

Baptist Record needs help

The Baptist Record would like to locate its oldest reader.

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Genesis 3:14-24; 6:5-8, 11-22;
9:8-13

In Genesis 9:11, God wrote, "... Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." The destruction of the earth should live in our minds as a reminder of just how much God hates sin. We also see that he offers grace and mercy to those willing to trust him. If you know you are lost, repent and trust Jesus to save you. If you are a Christian, dedicate yourself to righteous living.

God is great (3:14-24). I sometimes wonder if the blessing we learn as children ever carries over into adulthood — "God is great, God is good, let us thank him for our food." God is great and greatly to be praised. It should be no wonder to us why God drove the first couple from the garden. They had sinned against him, and sin always separates from God. God punished the first man and woman for their disobedience by casting them out of the perfect environment that he had created for them.

God is grieved (6:5-6). One of the saddest verses in the Bible is Genesis 6:6: "The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain." God had created a perfect universe and had placed his perfect creation in the midst of it all. His creation responded by sinning. Unrepented, sin tends to grow; the wickedness of human kind became so great that God grieved. "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (6:5, NIV). Man had become so depraved that sin was all he thought about. The only thoughts men had were evil. Man's unbridled imagination thought up every corrupt and impure desire that the human heart could conceive.

As I read our daily newspapers, it appears to be happening again. People think up new sins that defy normal comprehension. Man may wink at sin today; however, God is still on the throne.

God is full of grace (6:6-7). These verses show us the response of Almighty God to the sinfulness of man. "So the Lord said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth — men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air — for I am grieved that I have made them'" (6:7, NIV). God said he would destroy all living things on the earth. Who could blame him? God has every right to judge sin. He has every right to expect that we, his creations, should behave in a manner that he sees fit. Was this rampant sin a result of the godly line of Seth intermarrying with the godless descendants of Cain? Perhaps. What is interesting is to see the results. The lower life was not elevated to the higher; rather, the godly were dragged down to the sinful practices and ideals of the profane.

God is full of grace: "... We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14, NIV). God said he would destroy all living things, but Noah found grace in his eyes. This should serve to teach us two things. First, God knows us. Righteous Noah was noted by God. Jesus explained that God sees sparrows when they drop from tree limbs. He is aware of your entire physical make-up.

Secondly, God is sovereign. He decided first to destroy all of the living creatures on the earth; that would have included Noah. However, he changed his mind and decided to spare Noah and his family. God can always be trusted to do the right thing. We can believe God in our hearts and in his Word.

God is gracious (9:8-13). God made a covenant with Noah: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you" (9:9, NIV). We see again that God reached out to man. It is God who initiated this covenant. God has been faithful to this day. Never again has he destroyed the earth with a flood. Our God is a gracious God and one has to wonder how long he will remain so.

Jesus warned that the end time would be like that of "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37). Every day that passes brings us closer to the second coming of our Lord. Do you enjoy a rainbow? Of course you do. A reminder comes along with it: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book

Commitment to the faith



By Jewel P. Merritt
Jude 3-4, 8-13, 20-23

This quarter we have studied the writings of three men — John, Peter, and Jude. Each of them warned of the danger of false teachers. When individuals are being trained to spot counterfeit money, they commit hours to studying the characteristics of "real" money. After hours spent in this way, they are able to spot counterfeit bills much more easily. The danger of false teachers continues today. We must commit ourselves to studying the characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then we can spot distortions presented by false teachers. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote to warn his fellow believers of the danger of false teachers.

An appeal to contend for the faith (3-4). Paul wrote to the church at Galatia: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28, NIV). Jude referred to it as our "common salvation." Although all believers share in the salvation experience, there is nothing ordinary about it. Because our faith is so precious and was so extravagantly bought with the blood of our Lord, we should be quick to defend it. Jude warned his readers of ungodly men who had slipped secretly into the fellowship. These immoral men even denied the Lord God and his only Son.

The character of the ungodly and their coming judgment (8-13). In Matthew 7:1 Jesus warned us against judging others. He went on to say, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruits you will recognize them" (Matt. 7:15-16a, NIV). Jude spoke of the "counterfeit" teachers of his day and their sure judgment from the Lord they rejected. In verse 9 Jude speaks of a story from Hebrew literature which told of Moses' death. According to this story, "The Assumption of Moses," the devil came to claim the body of Moses because he had murdered an Egyptian years before. The archangel Michael, there to claim Moses' body for God, refused to release Moses' body or to slander the devil. Instead Michael said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Jude then turns again to the false teachers, pointing out that they blasphemed all authority. Such action surely would bring God's judgment (v. 11). Jude calls his readers' attention to three Old Testament examples. Cain, whose worship was unacceptable to God, murdered his brother Abel and was condemned to be a wanderer (Gen. 4:4-12). Balaam committed a heinous sin. He taught others to sin (Num. 31:8, 15-16). His punishment was death. Korah died as God's punishment for leading a rebellion against Moses (Num. 16). In the next two verses (12-13) Jude paints graphic word pictures of the false teachers. The NIV translates like this: "shepherds who feed only themselves; clouds without rain; autumn trees without fruit." Such behavior always brings judgment.

Proper behavior by true Christians (20-23). Contrast that behavior with the behavior of true Christians. We are to be building ourselves up in our faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote that the Spirit intercedes for us when we pray (Rom. 8:26-27). Jude admonishes his readers to keep themselves in God's love. We can keep ourselves in his love because we are kept by God's power (Jude 1; Rom. 8:35-39; John 10:28-29). If we are behaving as true Christians, God can use us to express compassion to those who are being influenced by false teachers, helping them commit themselves to the Lord.

An aged minister once prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side." We all have a "leaning side," a specific area in our lives where we need to grow. We need to focus our attention on God's command to reach out to those who are being influenced by false teachers. We must be about the urgent business of making disciples for our Lord. One of my favorite songs says, "May all who come behind us find us faithful." Wouldn't it be wonderful to be greeted by the Lord with these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work

Defeat and failure



By Mark A. Rathel
Acts 12, 13, 15; Colossians 4;
2 Timothy 4

Every person has experienced "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." For a reason not revealed in the biblical text, John Mark experienced defeat. A network of Christian friends assisted John Mark in returning to victorious Christian service.

Mark was a member of the first missionary team (Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5). Barnabas, whose name means the Son of Encouragement, provided catalytic, visionary leadership in the early church. He functioned as Paul's spiritual mentor by assisting the Jerusalem church to accept Paul. When the Antioch church experienced explosive growth because of success in evangelism among the Gentiles, the Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to investigate. Barnabas provided verbal encouragement to the missionary spirit of the church at Antioch, but his greatest encouragement to the church was leadership recruitment. Barnabas recruited Paul because he recognized a match between the missionary spirit of the church and Paul's commission as apostle to the Gentiles. Barnabas and Paul served as teachers in the church for one year.

The Holy Spirit led the Antioch church to set apart Barnabas and Paul for missionary work. Although John Mark was not set apart by the church, he accompanied Barnabas and Paul on the first missionary journey. Luke described Mark's role as that of helper (13:5). He possibly functioned as a trainer for new converts.

Mark's desertion precipitated a team split (Acts 13:13b; 15:37-39). When the missionary team left the island of Cyprus to begin missionary work in Asia Minor, John Mark left and returned to Jerusalem. Luke offered no clue as to the reason for Mark's abandonment of the mission effort. Scholars have proposed several speculative theories about the biblical silence. Mark may have had second thoughts regarding the admission of the Gentiles. Barnabas did not act consistently in regard to the Gentile issue (Gal. 2:13). Mark may have been uneasy about the possible dangers in the disease-infested province of Pamphylia. He may have resented Paul's ascendancy in leadership over his cousin Barnabas. Prior to Acts 13:9, Luke referred to the team as Barnabas and Saul; after Acts 13:9, Luke referred to the team as Paul and Barnabas or Paul and his companions. Thus, pride, personality, and policy are all possible factors in Mark's decision.

When Paul and Barnabas planned a second missionary trek, Mark's desertion precipitated a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas. The personalities of both Barnabas and Paul were factors in the quarrel. Barnabas, functioning as an encourager, desired to give Mark a second chance. Paul, focusing on the hard task ahead of them, did not want Mark to participate in the missionary effort. The quarrel resulted in a split of the missionary team. Barnabas and Mark returned to Cyprus. Paul and Silas embarked on missionary endeavors in Asia Minor.

Perhaps Mark needed the viewpoint of both men to challenge him to growth and further service. After his failure, Mark needed the encouragement of a second chance. At the same time, he needed to learn the importance of perseverance and fulfillment of responsibility in the Lord's work.

Reconciliation is mutually beneficial (Col. 4:10-11; 2 Tim. 4:11). The disruption in the relationship between Paul and Mark was not permanent. In his later letters, Paul spoke affectionately of Mark and his value in mission work. The Bible does not record how the reconciliation was affected. For reconciliation to take place, however, Paul and Mark experienced a change of heart.

In Colossians, Paul included Mark in a list of six fellow workers sending greetings to the Colossae church. Mark, along with Aristarchus and Justus, provided encouragement to Paul. In 2 Timothy, Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark with him because Mark had proven himself useful in service to Paul. Both Paul and Mark were mutually blessed by the reconciliation.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

Virginia nurse shares her AIDS ministry with teens

By Tim Nicholas

(This article is second in a series of three on issues facing today's teens.)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Baptist nurse Margaret Ann Cummings of Norfolk, Va., and wife of Bryant Cummings, former director of the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, became involved in ministering to AIDS patients the way many others do — a family member contracted the terminal disease.

Because of her nursing background, she went to help her nephew who had developed AIDS. He died at age 29. Though she had retired from active nursing in 1973, Cummings' involvement in the AIDS ministry continued.

"The main thing that drew me is that people shunned us when we were taking care of our nephew," she said.

She has since taken hospice training and works with an Episcopal hospice group. She belongs to an interfaith AIDS council in the Tidewater area which attempts to interest churches in ministering to their own.

Why work with other denominations?

"We can't get the Baptist churches to respond," she said, adding, "I'm afraid we're going to be last."

But Cummings and others like her haven't given up trying. She works with the Virginia Woman's Missionary Union through the Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Virginia which is getting ready to begin a series of ministries in October. These ministries will include working with pregnant teens and with AIDS patients.

She is also on the Virginia WMU resource team getting ready to train in parish nursing. "This is a program where you have a nurse and a physician on a church staff who direct people in the congregation to minister to people who are ill," she explained.

Now, out of her personal experience, Cummings has written a booklet for teenagers on ministering to family and friends who have AIDS. The booklet tells the simple stories of three young people who contracted AIDS.

"They're all dead," she said sadly.

The booklet is just one in a series published jointly by Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission under the World Changers Resources imprint. The series focuses on issues faced by today's teenagers and how they can effectively minister to victims of those issues. Subjects covered by the booklets include: suicide, grief, substance abuse, the new age movement, pregnancy, and divorce.

"The main thing about teenagers is that's when they're getting infected," Cummings said. Most of the AIDS patients she has ministered to are in their early 20s. "With the promiscuous sexual activity, they're going to get infected in high school and sick in college."

She added, "You can't count on protected sex. Besides, when they're on alcohol or drugs, they're not going to think about protecting themselves."

Besides giving a clear picture of the devastation that AIDS wreaks even on children and teenagers, the

booklet offers suggestions on how teens can minister to other teens who have AIDS.

"There are only certain ways you put yourself at risk," she said. "It's really a wimpy virus. You have to work at it. Sitting, hugging, watching a TV show together — you're not going to contaminate yourself that way."

Cummings offers several suggestions for working with AIDS victims:

- *offer to relieve family members,
- *bring in foods they like,
- *share a verbal Christian witness.

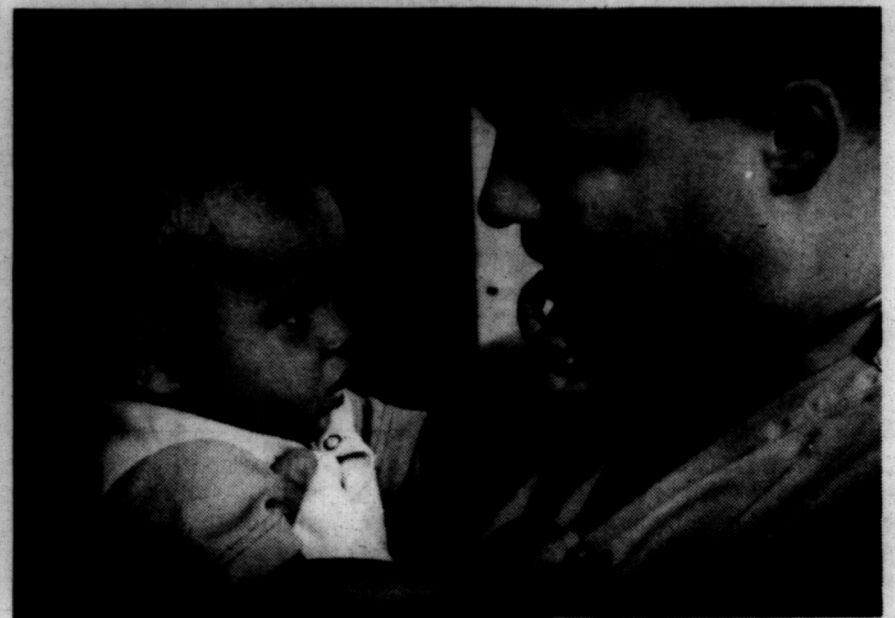
The booklet includes a short series of Bible verses which point to the necessity of trusting Christ.

"What I'm interested in is if they've had an experience with the Lord," Cummings said. She recalled a minister witnessing to a young man with AIDS. "Ask the Lord to love me," he told the minister who, in turn, led him to a profession of faith.

"One night I was sitting with my nephew. He asked me some questions about AIDS. He was on the experimental (drug) AZT. I didn't know the answers. He said, 'What do you know something about?' I said, 'Well, let's talk about heaven.' We made a pact — we're going to meet each other at the southern gate."

Meantime, she plans to use her talents to help AIDS patients as best she can and to expose as many people as possible to a ministry whose time has come.

Nicholas, director of Office of Communication, MBCB, prepared this story on assignment from WMU.



Delivering aid

SAN FELIPE, Venezuela — Brian Mulberry holds a young patient at a free medical/dental clinic where he and other Southern Baptist medical missions volunteers worked with Venezuelan Baptists in a medical crusade. Mulberry screened patients by checking their blood pressure. His mother Gayle was also on the volunteer team. He is a sophomore chemistry major at the University of Kentucky in Lexington where he attends Porter Memorial Church. His father, Larry Mulberry, is pastor of Hillcrest Church in Clarksville, Tenn. (Brotherhood Commission photo by Jim Burton)

CLC OK's purchase of building in D.C.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christian Life Commission trustees in their semiannual meeting Sept. 13-15 in Nashville approved a record budget of \$1,665,131 and authorized the purchase of a new building in the nation's capital to house the agency's Washington staff.

The increase in the budget is fueled by a sizable increase in the sale of CLC products and also in designated gifts. The growth in product sales and designated gifts more than makes up for declining Cooperative Program revenues affecting all SBC agencies, said Richard D. Land, CLC executive director.

Money for the new facility will come partially from the \$300,000 given to the CLC in June from a building fund that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs never used for its original purpose.

The new building, a residential townhouse converted into an office building, will cost \$495,000 and will need about \$150,000 in renovations. CLC trustees estimated the \$300,000 will cover the renovation costs and the \$148,500 down payment. The remaining \$346,500 purchase price for the building will be paid through an owner-financed note for 10 years at 8% interest. Payments on the note are about the same as the CLC is currently paying for rent on its Washington offices.

The contract also must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee, which met Sept. 21-22 in Nashville.

RTVC trustees take stand against TV porn, violence

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission Sept. 13-14 approved an \$8.9 million 1993-94 budget, welcomed the agency's first woman vice president, and passed a resolution "pledging to the American family efforts to protect children from abuse because of violent and sexually suggestive material presented on television."

Although the new \$8,969,000 budget is less than the 1992-93 budget of \$9,247,000, it appropriates more funding for program development and acquisition. Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney said downsizing staff, restructuring, and better overall allocation of resources had resulted in more productivity at less cost.

Deborah Key, who has been with the RTVC since 1984, was named vice president of network operations. For the past four months she has been general manager of ACTS, the agency's faith and family cable television service, and FamilyNet, its broadcast television program service.

RTVC President Jack Johnson told trustees the RTVC is going to war to save America's children from damaging and often-subliminal messages of Satan carried by various media.

"Within the next three months, with your help, we plan to initiate an institutional advancement strategy that will chart our course for the future... a future geared to combating the pornography and violence responsible for shattered lives, ruined marriages, child abuse, and criminal activity," Johnson said.

The adopted resolution read in part: "Whereas the average teenager before the age of 17 sees 40,000 hours of television that include 400,000 sexual scenes, 200,000 acts of violence, and 33,000 mur-

ders; and whereas one recent poll showed that 92% of Christian teenagers have viewed hardcore pornography by the time they are 17 years old, and that 72% of all teens say they feel the urge to imitate what they have seen in violent and sexually explicit films, and more devastating, 31% of these minors say they have copied what they saw; and whereas the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is deeply concerned and qualified to address this crucial issue; be it therefore resolved that on this day, September 14, 1993, the trustees of the Radio and Television Commission publicly pledge the full resources of the Radio and Television Commission to correct this egregious condition."

It is not enough to trash the TV set or to write letters of protest to the sponsors of the offensive programs, Johnson said.

"We must educate parents in the use of the off switch and channel selector as weapons for the protection of family values," he said.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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ZEATY BO ELF CNEB, DOGA BO OLAON SLAX
AOHCAEASXL AYO GCSNSA ANPDB SG NOEFB,
IPA AYO KDOGY SG ZOER.

HENR KXPNAOOL: AYSNAB-OSWYA

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Eleven: Twenty-Eight.

Baptist Record

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